

1 **HOUSE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION NO. 38**

2 (By Delegate Smith)

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6 Requesting the Division of Highways to name bridge number 21-79-
7 95.73 on I-79 in Weston, West Virginia, the "Colonel James E.
8 Hiteshew Memorial Bridge."

9 WHEREAS, James Edward Hiteshew was born October 8, 1930, in
10 Weston, West Virginia, the son of Olive and John Hiteshew; and

11 WHEREAS, He attended a two-room country school for the first
12 six grades and then went to Weston Junior High School and Weston
13 High School; and

14 WHEREAS, While in school, he participated in various
15 activities. He was president of the senior class and captain of the
16 football team and an all-conference and second team all-state
17 football guard his senior year of high school; and

18 WHEREAS, After graduation from high school in 1948, he attended
19 Glenville College, West Virginia Wesleyan College and the United
20 States Coast Guard Academy before entering the Air Force as an
21 aviation cadet in 1952; and

22 WHEREAS, He received his wings and commission in September 1953
23 and then after completing gunnery school at Luke Air Force Base
24 (AFB) Arizona, he was assigned to the 405th Fighter Bomber Group at

1 Langley AFB, Virginia and several other assignments throughout the
2 United States and abroad; and

3 WHEREAS, Colonel Hiteshew departed for Southeast Asia on
4 September 18, 1966 and was stationed at Takhli Air Base; and

5 WHEREAS, He was flying over Vinh Phu province on his 75th
6 mission when his F-105 Thunderchief was shot down on March 11, 1967
7 and was captured; and

8 WHEREAS, Colonel Hiteshew's emergency beepers had been heard
9 and his parachute was observed, but immediate rescue in hostile
10 territory proved impossible; and

11 WHEREAS, While a prisoner of war in North Vietnam Colonel
12 Hiteshew lived in for six years in a twelve-foot cell, was
13 repeatedly beaten by his captives and tied to a post so villagers
14 could pelt him with rocks; and

15 WHEREAS, He utilized tapped codes to stay in touch with other
16 prisoners during his six year stay before being repatriated with
17 other POWs on March 4, 1973; and

18 WHEREAS, During Vietnam POW's reunion in 1996, he recalled that
19 he suffered a broken right arm, a broken left elbow, a badly
20 fractured right leg and a broken left leg after he ejected from his
21 aircraft; and

22 WHEREAS, Colonel Hiteshew retired from the Air Force in 1979;
23 and

24 WHEREAS, After Retirement from the Air Force, Colonel Hiteshew

1 started the Air Force Junior ROTC Detachment at Easter Wayne High
2 School in Goldsboro, North Carolina where his unique teaching style
3 and quick wit developed his detachment into one of the "showcase"
4 detachments in the Southeast region of the United States; and

5 WHEREAS, Colonel Hiteshew bravely earned the decorations of two
6 Silver Stars, the Legion of Merit, two Distinguished Flying
7 Crosses, two Bronze Star Medals, two Purple Hearts and the
8 Meritorious Service Medal; and

9 WHEREAS, Colonel James Edward Hiteshew was married to Wilma
10 "Billie" Coarathers Hiteshew, was father to Michael Dave and Susan
11 Jeanne Davis and grandfather of Michael James Davis and David Ryan
12 Davis; therefore, be it

13 *Resolved by the Legislature of West Virginia:*

14 That the Division of Highways is hereby requested to name
15 bridge number 21-79-95.73 on I-79 in Weston, West Virginia, the
16 "Colonel James E. Hiteshew Memorial Bridge"; and, be it

17 *Further Resolved,* That the Division of Highways is requested
18 to have made and be placed, signs identifying the bridge as the
19 "Colonel James E. Hiteshew Memorial Bridge"; and, be it

20 *Further Resolved,* That the Clerk of the House of Delegates
21 forward a certified copy of this resolution to the family of James
22 E. Hiteshew and the Secretary of the Department of Transportation.